

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH to the RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL of WILTON for the Year ending 31st December, 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

The population as shown by the census in 1901 was 7,467. I estimate that at Midsunmer, 1904, it had risen, by natural increment, to 7,727.

The area of the district is 54,074 acres, and the population is equal to one inhabitant per 6.9 acres. The number of inhabited houses is 1,739, which gives an average of 4.4 inhabitants to each house.

The public water supplies in the District have been very satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. The number of houses supplied from the Bemerton mains is 205.

In 1904 thirty-five samples of water drawn from private wells and tanks were examined. Of these only four were unfit for use. One well was closed and three were cleansed and repaired. The samples examined were drawn from the following parishes:—Barford St. Martin 3, Baverstock 1, Bemerton 4, Bishopstone 8, Broadchalke 1, Burcombe 2, Compton Chamberlayne 1, Ebbesborne Wake 1, Fifield 1, Fovant 3, Stapleford 2, Steeple Langford 1, Wishford 1, and Wylde 1.

No complaints as to adulteration of food or drugs have been received, but samples of these are regularly taken for examination by an officer of the County Council, specially appointed for the purpose.

Twenty-three new houses have been erected during the year, in all of which the necessary sanitary requirements have been observed. Two houses were closed as unfit for human habitation; 22 houses which had become insanitary were again rendered fit for occupation; and 59 houses have been cleansed and limewashed. One case of over-crowding was abated.

Sixteen drains have been laid or relaid; and eight have been cleansed, trapped, or ventilated. Ten privies have been cleansed, repaired, or rebuilt, and four have been converted into earth closets.

The streams and water-courses are in good order. A complaint was made to me by the Wilton Urban District Authority, that a drain at Barford St. Martin which received the sewage of six houses was allowed to discharge into the Nadder untreated. I have carefully considered the complaint, but I do not think that at the distance of three miles it can have any injurious influence on the Borough of Wilton. Viewed in the light of the judgment of Mr. Justice Buckley (*Earl of Harrington v. The Corporation of Derby*), and bearing in mind the prescriptive right now acquired by the inhabitants of Barford, and the great improbability of being able to prove specific damage, it seems extremely doubtful whether an injunction could be applied for with success, and I therefore hesitate to ask the Wilton Rural Sanitary Authority to move in the matter, unless their legal adviser recommends that course on general grounds.

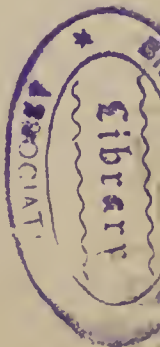
The sewerage of Bemerton has been completed and the pumping station erected. So far the mains have not yet been laid across the valley, nor has the disposal area been laid out. Since my last report the Wilton Urban Authority has decided to join the Bemerton scheme. At the time when the scheme was first mooted, the proposal that Wilton and Bemerton should join the City of Salisbury in a joint system of sewage disposal was considered, but the objections then existing appeared insurmountable. The enormous amount of sub-soil water gaining access to the Wilton sewers diluted the sewage to a volume with which it would have been difficult to deal. This was considered by the engineers to be fatal to that proposal unless Wilton were entirely re-sewered, and the Salisbury works enlarged. These objections have now been obviated, not only by the determination of the Wilton Urban Authority to re-sewer the town and exclude sub-soil water, but by the greatly enlarged Sewage works constructed by the City of Salisbury. I would respectfully recall this alteration of circumstances to this Authority, so that if it thought fit, and it were still possible to do so, it might re-consider that part of the Sewage scheme from the pumping station onwards. To deliver the sewage at Salisbury would entail a dead lift of only a few feet, and would be much less costly than to deliver it at Harnham, while this Authority would be relieved of the responsibility of maintaining a sewage farm there. The whole population to be provided for in Salisbury, Bemerton, and Wilton would be under 25,000, which is a number well within the capacity of a very moderate sewage establishment. I trust the Council will pardon me for drawing attention to this matter.

The Burial grounds are in good order and their area is sufficient.

Twenty-nine factories and workshops were inspected during the year and two were certified for limewashing.

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the District.

Ninety-eight Dairies and Milkshops are on the Register and are under supervision. In consequence of the recent decision in the case of The Aylesbury Dairy Company, much greater importance is attached to the sanitary condition of yards and cowpens by the various Dairy Companies, and they now refuse to receive milk from yards which are not kept in a sound sanitary condition, or in which the Bye-Laws are not scrupulously observed. I anticipate much less difficulty in the future in getting notices for cleansing and repairs promptly carried out. No instance has occurred of the sale of infected milk, and wherever infectious disease occurred in the homes of persons engaged in Dairy work, all infected persons were promptly withdrawn from connection with the Dairy until disinfection was complete.



In 1904 twenty-two cases of Infectious Disease were notified, as against thirty-one in 1903, and sixty-eight in 1902. Among the cases notified were 10 cases of Diphtheria and 5 cases of Searletina, all from Bishopstone District. One case of Enterie Fever was notified from Bemerton, but I failed to trace it to any previous ease, and no other case followed it. Six cases of Erysipelas were notified. An outbreak of Diphtheria occurred at Bishopstone, which neecessitated the closing of the Schools, from June 5th to July 8th.

During the past year a Joint Hospital Committee has been formed for the four Urban and Rural Districts of Salisbury and Wilton, and these have been constituted a Hospital District. As the lease of the Premises in Compton Wood, which were used by this Authority as a Small-pox Hospital, has now expired, and we are at present without such aecommodation, I would suggest that this Authority should eall upon the Hospital Committee to make the necessary provision for isolating small-pox. There is no doubt that the tents which have been already provided by the Salisbury Urban and Rural Authorities on the Race Plain might be made suffieient for the four Authorities, and should the Hospital Committee adopt this course a grant in aid might be obtained from the County Rate.

The Sanitary Staff remains unchanged, and the District has been systematically inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and by the Sanitary Inspector.

Among the deaths registered 13 were from Bronchitis, 9 from Phthisis, 8 from Cancer, 8 from Heart Disease, and 6 from Pneumonia. No death was registered from any Zymotic disease.

The number of deaths from all causes was 97, being those of 58 males, and 39 females. Of these 48 occurred in the Bishopstone Distriet, 40 in the Wilton District, and 9 in the Wilton Union Work-house. The death-rate for the year was 12·5 per 1,000, which although under the average of the last ten years, is yet greater than in 1903, when it was only 10·4.

The Infantile Mortality was 76 per 1,000 Births registered.
The Births registered were 158, of which 80 were those of Males, and 78 of Females. The birth-rate was 20·4 per 1,000 as against 22·6 last year.

In no ease has it been necessary to resort to legal proceedings.
I append the usual returns of sickness, deaths, and supervision exercised.

CHARLES R. STRATON,
Lic. San. Sci., Durham,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TABLE I.—WILTON RURAL DISTRICT.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1894	8004	194	24·2	19	97	119	14·8
1895	8079	210	26·0	8	38	125	15·4
1896	8164	193	24·9	11	57	91	11·1
1897	8266	189	22·8	18	95	104	12·5
1898	8351	183	21·9	22	120	96	11·4
1899	8438	180	21·3	15	83	111	13·1
1900	8507	188	21·8	19	101	132	15·4
1901	7467	180	24·0	14	77	107	14·3
1902	7572	180	23·7	22	133	116	15·3
1903	7666	174	22·6	6	63	80	10·4
Averages for years 1894-1903	8051	187	23·3	15·4	86	108	13·3
1904	7727	158	20·4	12	76	97	12·5

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	} 54,074	Total population at all ages, 7,467	} At	
		Number of inhabited houses, 1,702		Census
		Average number of persons per house, 4·3			of 1901.

TABLE III.—*Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1904 in the Wilton Rural District.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH DISTRICT.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Wilton.	Bishop-stone.	Work-house.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up-wards.			
Diphtheria ...	10	...	1	6	2	1	...	...	10	...
Erysipelas ...	6	...	...	...	...	4	2	3	1	2
Scarlet Fever ...	5	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	5	...
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
TOTALS ...	22	...	2	9	3	6	2	4	16	2

Isolation Hospital—None.

TABLE IV.—*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1904, in the Wilton Rural District.*

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of “Residents” whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all Ages of “Residents” belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.		
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up-wards.	Wilton.	Bishop-stone.	Work-house.
Diarrhœa ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary tuberculosis)	9	...	...	1	2	6	...	6	3	...
Other tubercular diseases ...	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	8	...	...	...	...	2	6	4	4	...
Bronchitis ...	13	4	1	...	...	3	5	4	9	...
Pneumonia ...	6	...	...	1	1	1	3	...	6	...
Premature birth ..	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Heart diseases ..	8	...	...	...	...	2	6	3	5	...
Accidents ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	..	1	...	...
All other causes ...	45	5	...	1	...	9	30	19	17	9
All causes ...	97	12	2	3	4	26	50	40	48	9

*Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department of the Wilton Rural District
during the year ending 31st December, 1904.*

*Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction
of Medical Officer of Health.*

No. of Cases inquired into	...	21
No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed	...	10
No. of Patients removed to Hospital	...	Nil.
Lots of Bedding, Clothing, etc., Disinfected or Destroyed	...	1
Cases of Illegal Exposure reported	...	Nil.

Houses.

No. erected (if information obtainable)	...	23
No. made fit for Habitation	...	22
No. Closed as unfit for Habitation	...	2
No. Cleansed and Limewashed	...	59

Overcrowding.

No. of Cases abated	...	1
---------------------	-----	---

House Drains.

No. Laid or Re-laid	...	16
No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated	...	8
No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified	...	Nil.
No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified	...	1
No. of Dumbwells rectified	...	1

Water Closets.

No. of additional W.C.'s provided	...	Nil.
No. Repaired, Ventilated, and Supplied with Flush Cisterns	...	1

Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided	...	Nil.
No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop-Closets	...	Nil.
No. converted to Pail-Closets	...	4
No. Repaired	...	10

Scavenging.

Total No. of Houses from which Refuse Removable by the Authority	...	Nil.
Total No. of Privies and Ashpits Cleansed	...	44
Total No. of Portable Receptacles Cleansed	...	Nil.
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Excrement Removed	...	Nil.
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Refuse Removed	...	Nil.
No. of New Dust Receptacles provided	...	Nil.

Smoke Nuisanees.

No. under Observation	...	Nil.
No. Abated	...	Nil.

Offensive Trades.

No. under Observation	...	Nil.
No. Improperly Conducted	...	Nil.

Water Supply.

No. of Wells Sunk	...	4
No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired	...	3
No. of Wells Closed as Polluted	...	1
No. of Houses Supplied from Waterworks (during year)	...	205
No. of Samples taken for Analysis	...	35

Slaughter Houses.

No. Registered or Licensed	...	Nil.
No. Regularly Inspected	...	3
No. Cleansed and Repaired	...	3

Dairies and Cowsheds.

No. of Persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under supervision	...	98
No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Bye-laws dealt with	...	Nil.
No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector	...	Nil.

Factories and Workshops and Bakehouses.

No. under Inspection	...	29
No. Certified for Limewashing by Inspector	...	2
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances	...	Nil.
No. employing "Young Persons," etc. reported to Medical Officer of Health	...	Nil.

Lodging Houses.

No. on Register	...	Nil.
No. Regularly Inspected	...	Nil.
No. Cleaused and Repaired	...	Nil.

Food.

No. of Seizures as Unfit for Consumption	...	Nil.
--	-----	------

Animals kept so as to be a Nuisanee.

No. of Cases of Removal on Notice	...	Nil.
-----------------------------------	-----	------

Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

No. of Removals	...	5
-----------------	-----	---

Legal Proceedings.

No. Taken	...	Nil.
No. of Convictions Obtained	...	Nil.
No. of Cases Withdrawn or Dismissed	...	Nil.

Clerical Work.

No. of Notices Served	...	162
No. of Notices Complied with	...	148
No. of Notices Outstanding	...	14

(Signed) JOHN GOULDEN.